

STOCKENBRIDGE

BREAKS



Tall John's House, Brecon Beacons, South Wales
Thursday 13th September — Sunday 16th September 2018

A wonderful 3-night Bridge Weekend in the beautiful Llangorse Lake Valley with your hosts Zebedee and Claudia Stocken.

£595pp* including: * for single or twin occupancy

- 3 nights' stay in this elegant Georgian manor house
- Full board every day including:
 - A delicious breakfast with hot and cold options including full cooked
 - two-course lunch and afternoon tea with freshly made cake or biscuits
 - three-course dinner with unlimited selected wine
- Refreshments available during bridge play
- Reception with aperitif and canapes on the first evening
- All bridge tuition and course notes

Very special bridge holidays

Tall John's House

Originally a Welsh long house, Tall John's House has been shaped by British naval history. In 1588 the manor house was created to celebrate the defeat of the Spaniards. Extensive Georgian renovations took place in the late 19th century when the famous Admiral Hamilton used his substantial prize money to create a wonderful Georgian manor house. Now run by Liza and Robin Watson, the house has all the comforts of the 21st century but has kept its character from the past six hundred years.



The extensive grounds include a walled garden, rolling lawns and fantastic views across the secluded valley to the Black Mountains. The house is very comfortably furnished with antique furniture and beautiful paintings. The elegant reception rooms include a large traditional entrance hall with a wood burner; a wonderful Georgian drawing room with its high ceiling, bay windows, delicately carved cornices, chandelier and log fire; a book-lined library with billiard table; a bay-windowed dining room and a cosy sitting-room.

Delicious food

At Tall John's you will be served with delicious home-cooked food using locally-produced and locally-sourced ingredients. This may be award winning local Welsh cheese, delicious smoked salmon from the local Black Mountains Smokery or tasty local Welsh lamb, all served with home-grown fruit and vegetables where possible.



MENU at TALL JOHN'S HOUSE

*Twice-baked cheese soufflé made with Welsh cheddar cheese
Roasted goat's cheese on rocket & beetroot, roasted pine nuts & balsamic dressing
Locally smoked duck with homemade redcurrant sauce & a delicate garden salad
Local black mountains smoked salmon with blinis, crème fraiche and lemon*

*Local Welsh sirloin steak with peppercorn & mustard sauce, served with twice-cooked hand-cut chips & roasted cherry tomatoes on the vine
Smoked haddock in a cream, white wine & saffron sauce with poached egg, new potatoes & spinach
Roast local Welsh lamb with roast potatoes, roast parsnips, creamed leeks & honeyed carrots, homemade redcurrant sauce & gravy
Poached sea bass served with a zesty salsa verde, crushed lemon potatoes, buttered green beans & flaked almonds*

*Pears poached in red wine & cinnamon with toasted almonds & crème fraiche
Eton mess of meringue, cream, mango, blueberries & passion fruit
Warm almond & raspberry tart with crème fraiche, blueberry & kiwi salad
Warm, gooey brownie with vanilla ice cream*



Please Note

Dinner will be accompanied by unlimited house wine per person.

This is a sample menu and will vary according to the season and availability of produce. For dinner, there will be a choice of 2 dishes for each course, ordered in advance.

There will be a buffet breakfast with hot and cold choices including a full cooked breakfast. Lunch will be a simple 2-course meal. Any special diets can be catered for.

Accommodation

The bedrooms are spread out over the manor house, the adjacent stable block, coachman's cottage and honeysuckle cottage. The bedrooms are all different, some with double bed, some single, some twin. They all have en-suite or private bathrooms; some with baths, some with showers and some with both.



All bedrooms are provided with plenty of large, fluffy towels, dressing gowns, slippers, hair-dryers and a range of soaps, shampoos and shower gels. There is free Wi-Fi available.



The bedrooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so please let us know your preferences when you book. The double rooms will be allocated in preference to those who book double or twin occupancy. If you wish to book a double room in single occupancy, then there is a £150 supplement. Please contact us for further room details, including bathroom facilities and accessibility.



Bedrooms are available from 4pm and check out is 10am.

Bridge with Zeb & Claudia

Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game adapted to your level.



Claudia – Zeb’s sister – will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday and, as a keen and experienced bridge player herself, she will also be supervising bridge sessions. The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching, supervised play and some duplicate – all played in a fun and friendly environment. The tuition sessions will use CompassCards (*set deals*) and a fun topic tailored to the group.



The other sessions will be supervised play or some form of duplicate or teams with prizes at the end of the stay. All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play although we can only accommodate complete beginners if booked as a group of four. Non-bridge playing partners are of course welcome.

It is important to stress that our holidays are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate every night. Our ethos is that bridge should be a friendly and social game where you can meet like-minded people, and our holidays reflect that. No partner is needed on a StockenBridge holiday.

Bridge Schedule

Thursday

Supervised play

3.30pm - 5.30pm

After dinner supervised bridge

Friday and Saturday

Bridge tuition

10am – 12.30pm

Duplicate (*teams/pairs*) or supervised

5pm – 7.30pm

After dinner supervised bridge

Sunday

Bridge tuition

10am – 12.30pm



Other things to do around and about

There are no bridge sessions scheduled for Friday or Saturday afternoons, so this would be the perfect time to explore the local surroundings.

Walking

There is lovely countryside and dramatic natural scenery right on the doorstep and many wonderful local walks, including one up to Pen-Y-Fan, the highest peak in the National Park.



Fishing and Golf

There are many great fishing spots all along the River Usk and even for more experienced fly-fishermen, the wily trout will still provide an exciting challenge! The River Wye is also close by and excels in both salmon and trout fishing. The nearest golf clubs are Brecon and Cradoc - about twenty minutes away.

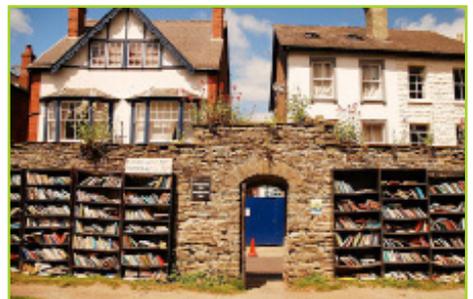
Castles

Delve into Welsh history and visit some of the many castles in the local area. Within easy reach by car there are castles that range from large impressive fortresses like that of Raglan Castle to smaller round keeps like those in Tretower or Skenrith (*right*). Many of the nearby towns such as Brecon, Hay and Crickhowell still have medieval keeps in their centre.



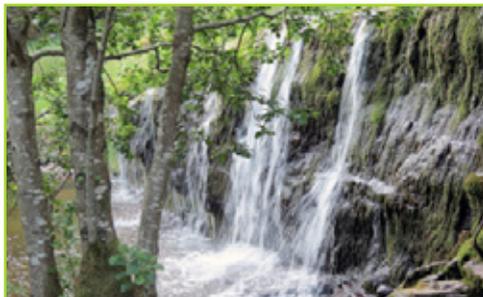
Hay-on Wye

This charming market town, world renowned for its bookshops, also has a good range of antique and high-quality art and craft shops, plus fashion boutiques and country wear shops, as well as an excellent Thursday market.



Talybont Waterfalls

Above the village of Talybont, the River Caerfanell drops through the mountains in a series of spectacular gorges and cascading waterfalls.



Llangorse Lake

Walk or take a short drive to Llangorse Lake, the largest glacial lake in south Wales and home to a myriad of wildlife. You can hire a boat and fish on the lake or why not hire a rowing boat? There is also a reconstructed Crannog which is a model of the Celtic village that once existed on the lake.



PRICE: £595 per person* (*single or twin occupancy*)

*If you wish to take a double room in single occupancy then there is a £150 surcharge

How to Book...

To book your holiday, please fill out and submit the on-line booking form (contact us for the link or see the Tall John's holiday page of our website) together with the deposit of £150 per person by bank transfer or cheque - see below or the booking form for payment details. Alternatively we can post a booking form to you to fill in. The full payment will be due by June 30th 2018. Please see website for our Terms and Conditions.

Payment

- where possible an on-line transfer is preferable for a speedy transaction that is easy to track.

On-line Transfer:

Account name: 'Stockens Ltd' Account Number: 27452468 Sort Code: 30-11-75

Please quote 'Tall Johns 18' or your invoice number if you have one

Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to 'Stockens Ltd'

Financial Protection

Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

Travel Details

Tall John's House is situated in the east of the Brecon Beacons National Park, 6 miles from Crickhowell and 7 miles from Brecon.

Travelling by car:

Tall John's is a 3-hour drive from West London straight down the M4 and about 1 hour 45 minutes from Birmingham.

Travelling by train:

Tall John's is an 13-mile taxi ride from Abergavenny station (about 30 minutes drive), which is just off the main London to Cardiff line. Trains leave from London Paddington roughly every hour and you need to change at Newport, South Wales for the short trip to Abergavenny. Abergavenny is also on the line between Manchester Piccadilly and Cardiff.

Travelling by air:

The closest airport is Cardiff (*about an hour*), then Bristol (*about 1hr 20 minutes*).

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